

'82 error dimes:

Hot targets for windfall hunters

By Roger Boye

Many more 1982 no-mint-mark dimes are turning up in circulation, creating additional hype for what could become the best-known coin error since the 1972 "doubled die cent."

Most of the newest finds are reported by collectors living in northern Ohio, an area served by the Cleveland Federal Reserve bank. One Ohio man supposedly found as many as 60 of the shiny treasures.

After stories about the initial discoveries appeared several weeks ago, experts suggested that the coins in "uncirculated condition" could be worth as much as \$125 each. But with continuing reports of new finds, the pros are hedging their bets.

A person living in the Sandusky, Ohio, area offered the error dimes for sale at \$10 each, according to a report in *Coin World's Collectors' Clearinghouse* section. But some dealers were paying \$55 or more per piece in private transactions at a recent Dearborn, Mich., show, said author Alan Herbert.

"Dealer ads for the coin in the next couple of weeks are expected to show a spread from about \$100 to about \$130 retail, although the price structure has not firmed up," Herbert wrote in an analysis for the April 23 *Numismatic News*.

He added that at least 200 of the coins were available for purchase at the huge Dearborn show. Meanwhile, respected Philadelphia dealer Harry J. Forman estimates that fewer than 2,000 specimens are known thus far.

"I'd pay from \$100 to \$110 per dime [in uncirculated condition]," Forman said last Monday.

All 1982-dated United States dimes are supposed to sport a tiny mint mark just above the date, either a "P," "D" or "S." No letter appears on the error pieces because government workers forgot to punch the mint mark into one of the hundreds of dies used to make 1982 dimes.

Although each die could make 750,000 or more dimes, Herbert and others believe the "bad" 1982 die cracked early in its production life, forcing workers to remove it from service prematurely. By coincidence, most of the oddities apparently were placed in bags destined for Cleveland.

● Want to have your old coins expertly appraised, free of charge?

Again this year, members of the Morton Grove Coin Club will operate a "coin origin and evaluation booth" during the club's annual show. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 22 at the American Legion Hall, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

In addition, several dealers will be selling numismatic collectibles in the show's bourse area. Admission is free.